

I am all for elimination of code for General Amateur Licensing. Of the amateurs I have spoken to about it, 99.9% of them say they learn the code just for the license and do not nor never will use it. They use voice only. Some people are extremely competent operators and technicians and the code restriction prohibits them from the hf bands. Some people have trouble learning it. Some can't distinguish the tones. There are those who have a hearing deficiency and are allowed to bypass the code. This tends to destroy the argument that code is needed to operate the international bands.

Some countries have dropped the code all together, as you know.

Too many amateurs see code as a "right of passage." It might well have been the case with the present Technician class license. Why prohibit others from enjoying the hobby? There was a time when an amateur needed to be adept technically. No more. So, there are many today (including those who know code) who are not technical and would not be licensed today. I would think it would be more important if they knew more about power and frequency requirements and limits than just the code. Violations of these parameters cause interference. Of course today equipment manufacturers are producing radios with circuits that can control these parameters without operator intervention. So it is for code today. If emergency services needs code for emergencies, perhaps a requirement for code under certain emergencies would be required. Then "hams" can learn code in order to participate in ARES and RACES.

The military dropped their requirement. Why should anybody hang on to this antiquated modulation system?